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Attorney's Docket No.: F0397/7050 TJO

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John M. Kirwan et al.
Serial No.: 09/744,698
Filed: January 29, 2001
For: UNIVERSAL MODULAR SURGICAL APPLICATOR SYSTEM

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the 6th day of June, 2001.

Joan E. Meagher

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents:

- ☒ Preliminary Amendment with Marked-Up Sheet
- ☒ Return Postcard

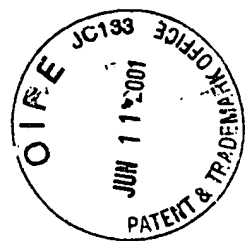
If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room and/or the Application Branch is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (617) 720-3500, Boston, Massachusetts.

No fee is believed due. If a fee is occasioned or if extensions of time are necessary, please charge the balance to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 23/2825. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Oyet, Reg. No. 36,628
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Attorney's Docket No. F0397/7050
Dated: June 6, 2001



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Joan E. Meagher

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto.

In the Specification

Please add the following paragraph as the first paragraph of the specification following the title.

Related Applications

This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 or 35 U.S.C. §365(c) of PCT International application PCT/US99/16950, designating the United States of America, and filed July 27, 1999, of which this application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. §371, published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.

Application number PCT/US99/16950 claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of United States provisional application 60/094,222, filed July 27, 1998.